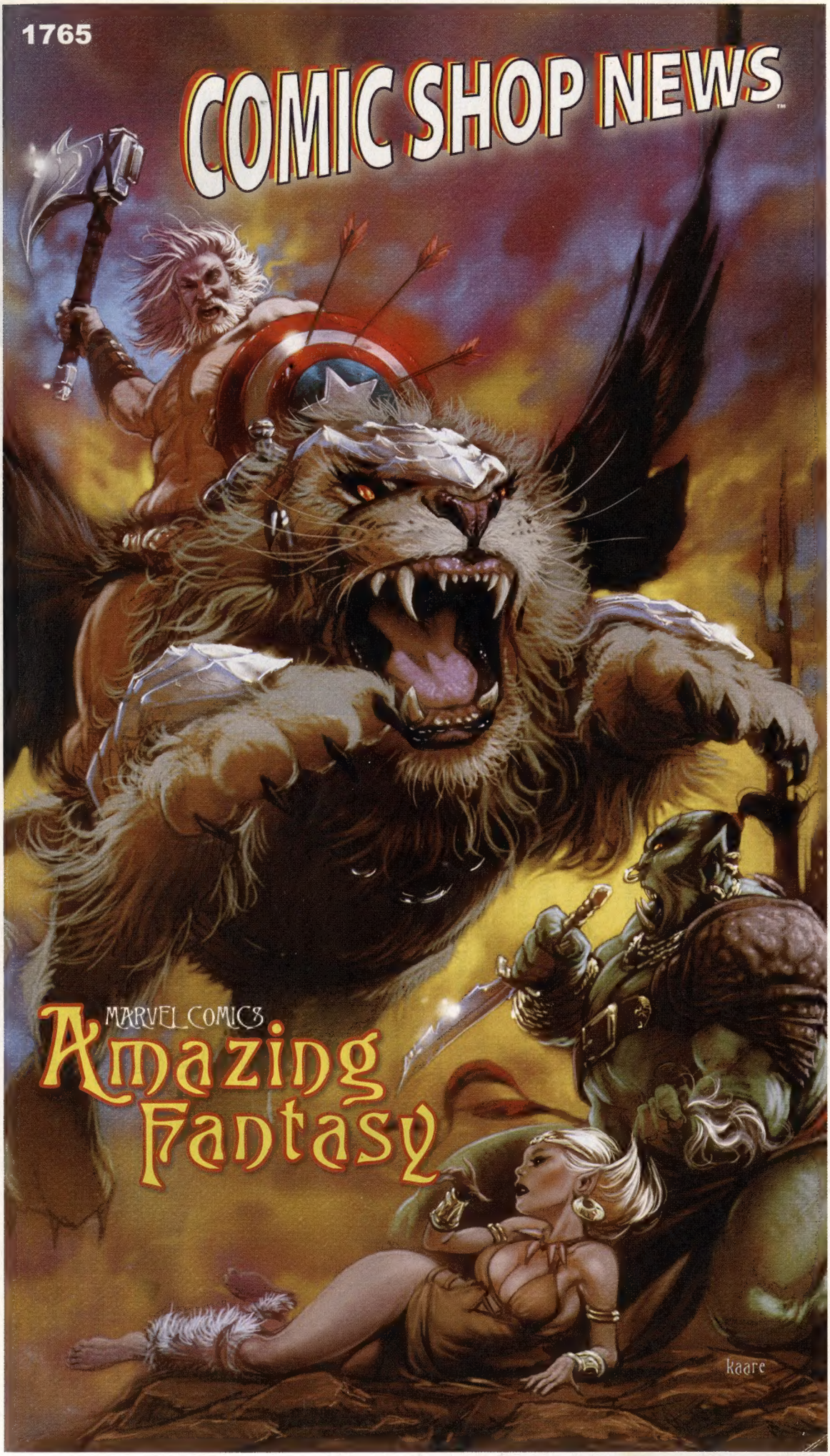
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COMIC SHOP NEWS™
MARVEL COMICS
Amazing Fantasy
kaare

Prepare for Amazing Adventures in Amazing Fantasy

The title is one of the best known in Marvel history, largely because of the character who made his appearance in its final issue in 1962. But *Kaare Andrews'* new ***Amazing Fantasy*** series is totally different from the book that first introduced us to the teenaged Spider-Man... although that character will appear in the new series as well!

"***Amazing Fantasy*** focuses on WWII Captain America, teenaged Spider-Man, and spy school–era Black Widow," Andrews told ***CSN***. "By necessity, the way comics deal with time has always been a bit strange because you end up with characters that don't really age much in their story times but have now outlived their actual creators' lifetimes. So, besides nailing down Cap to WWII, I'm intentionally a little loose with these eras in direct comparison to the real world. I'm much more focused on the eras of character's lives—'teenaged Spider-Man,' for example, as opposed to any decade in our real world. But there are flavors, and you'll see spy-school Black Widow has a sort of '80s flavor to her."

Working with these specific characters, from these specific time periods, is an important aspect of ***Amazing Fantasy***. "Over the past couple of decades, comics have been so interested in iterating outwards, in creating new versions of characters, sometimes with new people taking on those heroic identities, new costumes, new names, new locations... new, new, new. And you have to do that; you have to continually re-explore these characters to keep them living," Andrews explained. "But in doing so, you can inadvertently end up drifting so far from the thing that made them what they were, that they become unrecognizable. The real source of their power is always found in the nucleus, in the archetypes. And sometimes, the newest thing you can do is to re-explore those archetypes at the center. These are characters we've known and loved together, for decades. I believe that the real power of these heroes is in the shared. In the archetypes themselves. And they are demanding to be seen again!

"When I ask myself what I think of Spider-Man, the first image that comes to mind is a teenaged super-hero who battles costumed grown-ups while trying to protect his elderly aunt and navigate high school while battling through power vs responsibilities. For me, that's the archetype. That's my childhood memories of the character, that's the core. Everything else is a step away from that power.

"When I ask myself, 'Who is Captain America?,' I think of a

WWII soldier, battling the Red Skull and fighting for freedom. And really, this whole series happened because I asked myself how I could write a story that had both teenaged Spider-Man and WWII Captain America in the same story. How do I get to play with the archetypes of both characters at the same time?

"Black Widow came next. And I've always loved that Black Widow was a KGB superspy. And so, I found a time in her life where that still meant something. At her core, Black Widow is just as much a villain as a hero. And it just so happened that she came from a different timeline than either of the other two archetypes.

"So the great trick here was, How to do it? How to play with all of my favorite toys at once? And like most things in life, the answer to the now was found in the past. In the title of the comic of that very first Spider-Man appearance: ***Amazing Fantasy***. If I could embrace the literal meaning of those words, I could find a way to do it all.

"The ***Amazing Fantasy*** name became the tool I was able to employ to do the thing I wanted. But it all comes in a soup, you know? When you put these things together, you just let it happen. You catch those bolts of lightning that rain down on you, whether it's putting down notes in your iPhone in the middle of the night, or collecting folders of images, or buying vintage action figures. As soon as you start rationalizing what you are doing, you are limiting yourself to things you already know. Language organizes, but creativity explores. By definition, creativity should always be crossing over the border of intention. You're jumping over what you already know, bringing back the unknown, and then working it into shape by intuition until it's understandable again. That's really what artists do, why they're so weird, and why the art itself can hold so much power.

"The best things you create, you never quite understand exactly why you did them, what impulse brought you there. You can justify it all later... maybe even truthfully... but language isn't powerful enough to really contain that creative impulse. It's why images are so direct—they speak to us in a primal way; the words only follow—it's why our 0s and 1s of digital code didn't stay at text-based entry systems—no, the computer really unleashed its power only when it was converted into image-based interfaces. And it's why comics have a power that no other medium contains: true narrative, told in images, that tell a story. There's nothing else that comes close—maybe film. But film and TV are so choked up with the amount of people and money it takes to make those stories, it instantly corrupts that process. I think what most people don't understand is that a large company like Marvel can still allow and support real unbound creativity. The greatest trick of comics is that they can be created by small teams and limited money, no matter the scale of the companies that make them. There is a purity and power to that situation that can't be beat."

"The fact that it's a classic Marvel name that everybody knows gives it some power, and the fact that it's used in a different manner but still remains true to the essence of the title was appealing to me," Marvel Executive Editor and SVP *Tom Brevoort* added. "So it's the same thing, only different."

The cover for the first issue captures the grand fantasy feel of a classic *Frank Frazetta* painting—is this the sort of fantasy realm in which they find themselves? "I've always loved that Spider-Man came from the pages of a book called ***Amazing Fantasy***. Spider-Man's always embraced the 'amazing'—it's in his title: ***The Amazing Spider-Man***. But the 'fantasy' of it all was unexplored territory. That idea sparked a lot of creativity," Andrews said. "All of a sudden, I found myself with an open sandbox. And all I wanted to do was build! And I asked myself what fantasy meant to me—it was everything from Frazetta to Dungeons & Dragons; to Warhammer; to Flash Gordon; to Conan; to dragons, knights, and sorcery; to roleplaying games and books and movies... my God—there's just so much material to be inspired by. What a gift that one word became.

"I just started scavenging the internet, not in any sort of clinical way, but just looking for things I emotionally responded to. I created folders upon folders of reference and

Courtesy of your friendly neighborhood comics outlet!

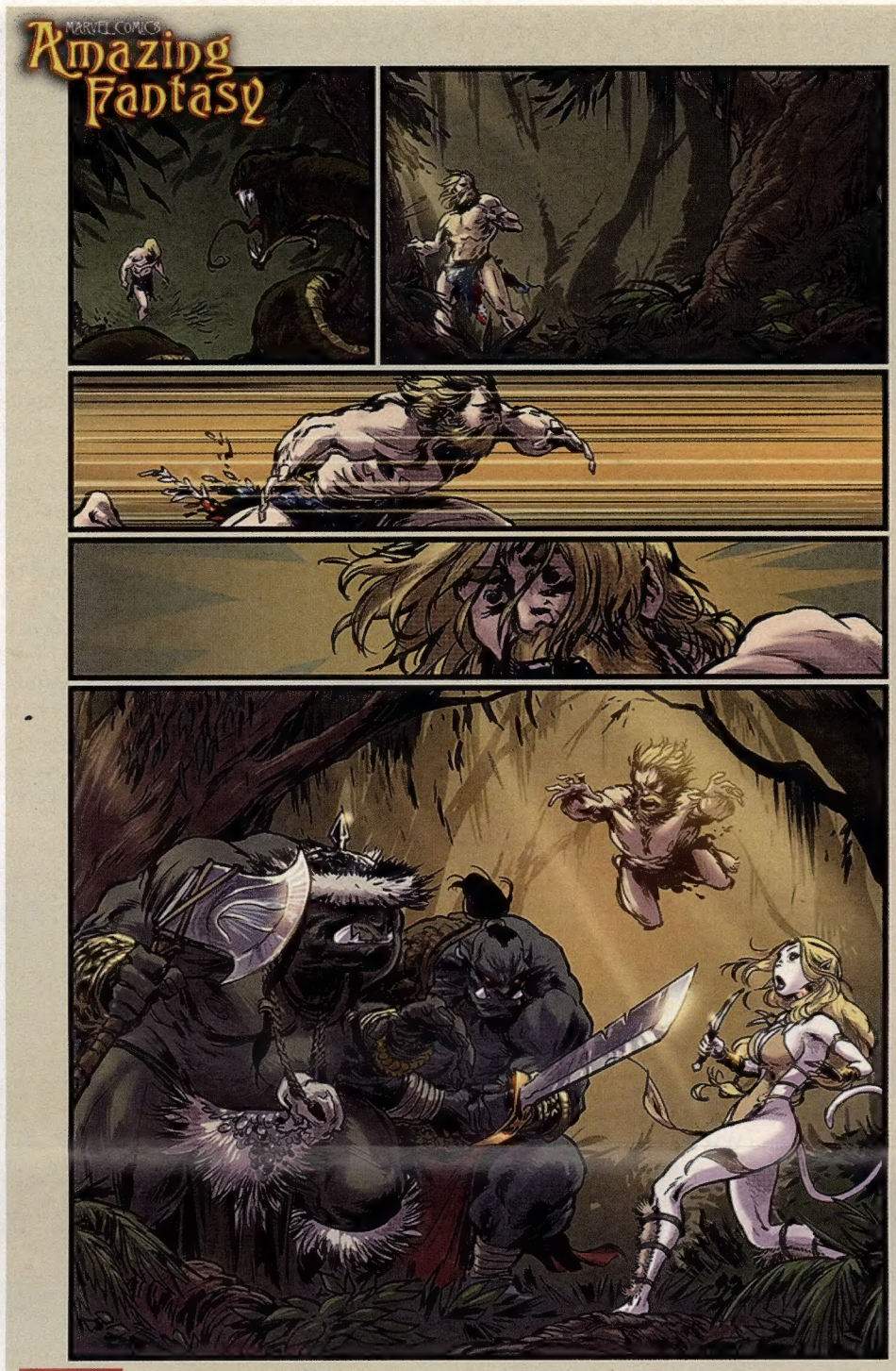
inspiration. I started buying hardcover Conan collections and toy dragons. This is always the part that is the most fun, just to chase out the inspiration and see what comes back. And definitely, I found Frazetta's paintings were one of the keystones. And while it wasn't possible to create an entire page-by-page story in that laborious style, it was definitely something I wanted to evoke in my covers, to announce the intentions of the book.

"I also incorporated the same kind of page distressing and graphic design that you might find in a classic science fiction/fantasy book. For me, the cover is so much more than a story image from the series. I look at every aspect of a cover as a tool for communication. It's why I often end up doing my own stab at the logos and type design. It's all material for making art. Not just for saying 'Pick me up!,' but to make promises and evoke questions. It's a very addictive process and part of why I love this medium so much."

Part of the fun of ***Amazing Fantasy*** lies in the way it brings these three disparate characters together in a world that is unfamiliar to each of them. "The cool thing about fantasy worlds, in the way we've used them in literature, role-playing games, and culture, is that fantasy worlds are often divided up by tribes of actual creatures. Orcs, goblins, dragons, lizard men, hobbits, gnomes, fairies, whatever... all of the various characters of every shape and kind... and I thought it would be fun to have each of our heroes sort of be dropped into a different group, a different tribe of creatures, all while each tribe was preparing for a great war. I didn't think too much about it; it's just a natural storytelling device that's both fertile and genre-appropriate. So there is a bit of a ticking clock that begins to emerge as the stakes begin to grow and grow."

In discussing the book, Andrews said that he was working not only with different eras, but also with different art styles. "I often find myself re-inventing my art style for each new project that comes along. There are just so many different ways to draw that I would feel confined with doing it one way. The only rule I've ever given myself is to never change art styles in the middle of a project. But I've always sort of wanted to find one project to draw in multiple art styles as a storytelling device, and plucking our heroes from different timelines gave me a reason to do this.

"So, much in the same way you had Dorothy go from a world of black-and-white Kansas to full-color Oz, you'll be able to track where our heroes came from through aesthetic. And each of these aesthetics is informed and inspired by the character eras I'm using. So Cap will have a very vintage '40s look, and Black Widow will sort of have a painted '80s



pastiche, and Spider-Man evokes a little Bakshi animation from the '60s. But there is a shared aesthetic once our heroes reach the island of Amazing Fantasy. Once their stories intertwine, so does their art style."

While ***Amazing Fantasy*** is a title long associated with Spider-Man, Andrews stresses that this isn't a Spider-Man story with special guest stars: "It really is an ensemble piece. I'm trying to give them all challenges. Each character takes turns leading the narrative at different times and in different ways, but they're all heading on the same collision course."

"It's definitely a challenging experience for all of the main players, in that it's a very different place from where any of them comes from," Brevoort said. "In Spidey's case, he comes into contact with a character by the end of the first installment that makes his journey different from Steve's or Natasha's in a meaningful way."

Will we see any other established Marvel heroes or villains in this series? "There's a trick or two," Andrews confirmed. "I'll say no more than that. But it's not a *Secret Wars*– level event. This is something much different, much more personal in scale. And after this story I want you to know these characters a little better than you did before, no matter how well you know them already. All through the core of each character. I'm using the idea of archetype itself as a storytelling theme. But this isn't just some tale of nostalgia, some Heritage Auction of some old piece of ink on yellowed paper made for kids 60 years ago and made into an archived commodity. *NO*. This is a re-invention and re-investigation of a shared understanding of who these heroes are. Today. Now!

"I was having a conversation with my good friend *Josh Middleton* the other day. And we have these long talks about art and comics and life. It's all over Facetime audio from Japan to Canada, chats that would have cost us thousands of dollars in a pre-internet era, but that we can now do at the drop of a hat while working away on our various projects during overlapping time zones. But we were talking about how comics are never what you thought they were, that the strongest memories you have of enjoying the medium are all just your personal constructs of the past. The coolest story you remember so well is nothing like the story that actually is. The Marvel you loved or the Captain America you were so into was never what you remembered. In many ways, this book, this series, is me trying to put all those things and feelings about who these heroes were and are and will be, and define them and distill them into one story: to manifest what Marvel Comics has always meant to me... not to attempt to take hold of the wheel and steer the ship... but to just drop a ship of my own right into the street in the middle of traffic and say, 'This. Here!'

"Comics have so much power and embedded innovation. We go through trends and movements and events, but the shared *core* of these heroes is what interests me. I have no idea how much of a success this project is. Or will be. But it doesn't matter. That's not the point. The point is that it's already happening. *Today. Now. Here*. Check it out and see our shared heroes live again, in a whole new way—right back to the core!"

Just what brings the three of them together in this story? Neither Andrews nor Brevoort wanted to spoil that surprise. "This is the engine that runs the tale," Andrews said. "You're asking the right questions, but the only place that has the answers to them is in the story itself."

"Let's just say that a common experience brings them all together," Brevoort replied. "I don't know that I really want to say too much without ruining the set-up to the story. Afraid you're going to have to read the first issue to begin to get a sense for the shape of things. But they're all going to go on a sweeping, epic adventure with a lot of heart."

Amazing Fantasy #1, a $4.99 comic written and illustrated by *Kaare Andrews*, is scheduled for July 28th release.

Coming Comics— DC in August

The Warzoons make their way to the doorstep of the Fortress of Solitude in ***Action Comics #1034*** (by *Phillip Kennedy Johnson & Daniel Sampere)*, and only Lois Lane and the alien girl Thao-La are there to defend it. That's because Superman is halfway around the world, trying to stop the US from declaring war on Atlantis.

Amaya, princess of House Amethyst in Gemworld, and her brother love magical pranks. But when one goes much too far, her parents ground the young royal on Earth in ***Amethyst: Prince of Gemworld GN*** (by *Shannon Hale, Dean Hale, & Asiah Fulmore)*!

Aquaman's 80th Anniversary Special #1 (by *Geoff Johns, Paul Pelletier, Dan Jurgens, Steve Epting, Dan Watters, Miguel Mendonca*, and oth-

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Published weekly since 1987 by Comic Shop News, Inc.
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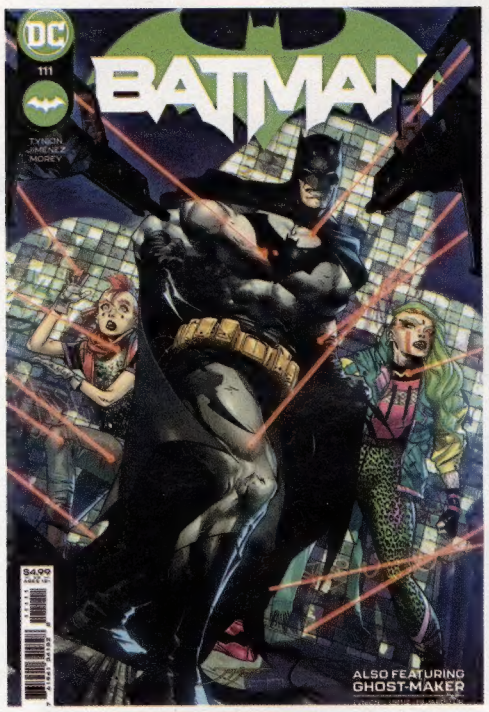
ers) spans across the ocean king's legacy, not just celebrating his own triumphs, but also those of his greatest allies and enemies. Plus, two of the stories are prequels to two new ***Aquaman*** miniseries launching in September, kicking off another 80 years of undersea adventure!



Mayor Nakano announces a crackdown on masked vigilantes in ***Batman #111*** (by *James Tynion IV & Jorge Jimenez)* just as the Magistrate moves against the Unsanity Collective. Batman attempts to avert a bloodbath, while the Scarecrow makes his final move...

Step back into the Gotham of *Tim Burton's* seminal classic Batman movies in ***Batman '89 #1*** (by *Sam Hamm & Joe Quinones)*. Gotham becomes torn in two as citizens dressed as Batman and Joker duke it out in the streets. As DA Harvey Dent tries to keep the city together, he targets the one problem tearing it apart: Batman! And he'll get Bruce Wayne's help in taking down the Dark Knight!

The event over a year in the making begins in ***Batman: Fear State Alpha #1*** (by *James Tynion IV & Riccardo Federici)* as **Fear State** settles upon Gotham City, and no one is safe! Overwhelmed by the dual threat of the Scarecrow and Peacekeeper-01, Batman and his allies have been one step behind since the events of ***Infinite Frontier #0,*** and with the arrival of a mysterious anti-Oracle and the return of Poison Ivy, Batman might have more than he can handle!

To Damian Wayne, there is nothing more important than protecting the streets of Gotham City as Robin. But when he makes a critical mistake while out on patrol, Damian finds himself back in school. Certain that Gotham Metro Academy has nothing to teach him, Damian is completely unprepared for the challenge he finds in Howard—the smartest and most athletic kid in school—in *Jeffrey Brown's* ***Batman & Robin & Howard GN.*** The boys' rivalry is instantaneous and fierce... and both are sure only one of them can be the best in their class.

When Bane kidnaps Ra's al Ghul in ***The Batman & Scooby-Doo Mysteries #5*** (by *Ivan Cohen & Randy Elliott)*, only one detective can help the assassin's daughter, Talia, track him down. But it's not Batman or guest-star Huntress. It's... Velma? Mystery Inc joins the chase in a globe-spanning adventure!

Clownhunter's brutal mission to hunt down all the clowns from the Joker War continues in ***Batman Secret Files: Clownhunter #1*** (by *Ed Brisson & Rosi Kampe)*. The untrained but focused vigilante stalks a boss-level clown, but his luck might be running out as he walks into an ambush set by Punchline! In a horrific parallel to his days at Gotham Academy, Clownhunter finds himself overwhelmed and outgunned—just the type of odds he likes!

The dimension-shattering Archive of Worlds saga ends in ***Batman/Superman #21*** (by *Gene Luen Yang & Ivan Reis)*. As the Dark Knight and the Man of Steel work to halt the villainous Auteur.io's plan here on Earth-0, the Batman and Superman of their respective archive worlds must team up with Alanna of Rann and El Diablo himself to save what's left of their homes.

Batman/Superman 2021 Annual #1 (by *Gene Luen Yang, Paul Pelletier, & Francesco Francavilla)* presents a flipbook epilogue to the Archive of Worlds saga—one side a Batman tale, the other a Superman story!

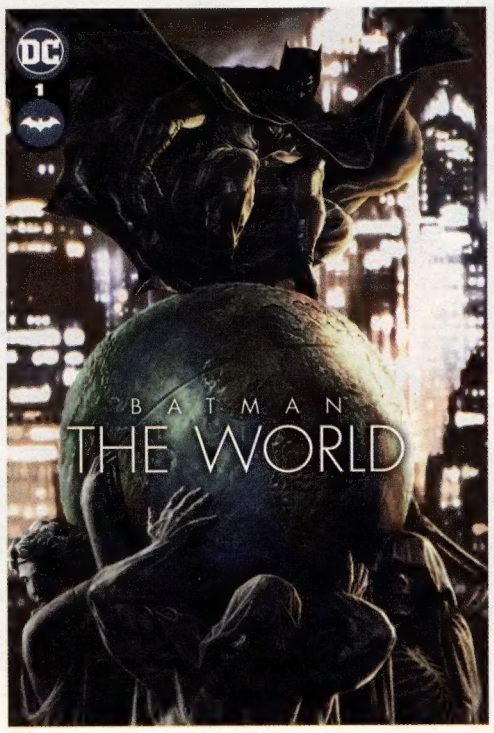
It got the Riddler. It got the Penguin. It got Deadshot, Hugo Strange, Two-Face, Tweedledee, and Tweedledum. And in ***Batman: Reptilian #3*** (by *Garth Ennis & Liam Sharp),* Batman finds himself vexed by one very important question: Just what on Earth is it?

Batgirl sets off on the warpath in ***Batman: The Adventures Continue Season Two #3*** (by *Alan Burnett, Paul Dini, & Ty Templeton)* after she learns Jimmy "The Jazzman" Peake is free and back out on the streets. After what he did to her father, she'll do anything to capture him—even if it means disobeying Batman.

Red Hood's alliance with Batman will be forever changed in the final chapter of "Cheer" in ***Batman: Urban Legends #6.*** This issue also features tales starring Tim Drake, Black Canary, and Zealot.

When Batman begins to doubt Catwoman's allegiance, it leads to trouble on the streets of Gotham in ***Batman/Catwoman #7*** (by *Tom King & Clay Mann)*. Whom does Selina support: Joker, Phantasm, or the Dark Knight? Well, he'll soon find out that some questions are better left unasked...

DC takes Batman's war on crime worldwide in the hardcover anthology ***Batman: The World***. This 160-page book, a global collaboration that is the first of its kind for DC, will feature Batman stories by creative teams from across the globe, taking place in their home countries.

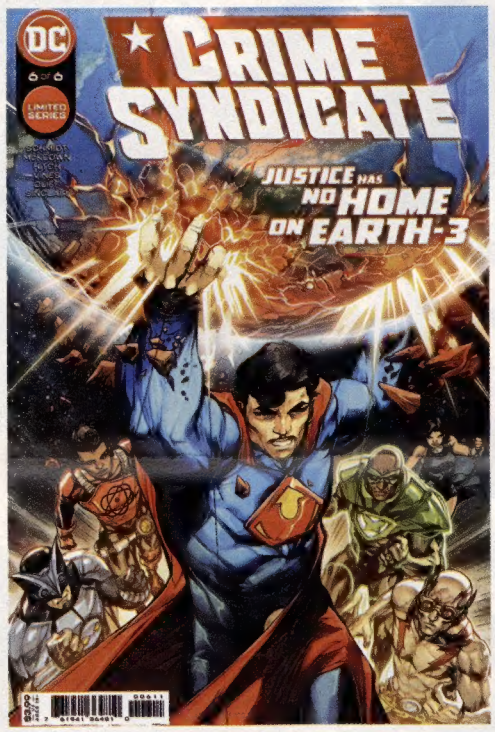


After a painful rejection from the DC Universe's team of A-list heroes, Booster Gold and Blue Beetle strike out on their own in ***Blue & Gold #2*** (by *Dan Jurgens & Ryan Sook).*

The Magistrate comes to Gotham in ***Catwoman #34*** (by *Ram V & Fernando Blanco),* and Alleytown stands as the last place in the city untouched by their totalitarian forces. But being the last bastion of freedom in a police state makes Selina's kingdom most inviting for Gotham's rogues!

Aquaman finds himself in the clutches of a gigantic underwater baddie courtesy of the deadly Doom Scroll prophecy, and the Super Sons stand ready to assist in ***Challenge of the Super Sons #5*** (by *Peter Tomasi, Max Raynor, & Evan Stanley).*

As the superspies try to keep Leviathan from getting its hands on the Heroes Network, Lois Lane does her best to get to the bottom of the new truths in ***Checkmate #3*** (by *Brian Bendis & Alex Maleev).* Meanwhile, her husband—the Man of Steel—has had just about enough of Leviathan.



Kara Zor-El of Earth-3 arrives in ***Crime Syndicate #6*** (by *Andy Schmidt & Kieran McKeown),* and it's far from a happy family reunion! Can Ultraman take his cousin down and reclaim his place as the true last survivor of Krypton?

What's a girl supposed to say when she finally comes face to face with her murderous father in space prison? Crush better hurry up and figure it out, because Lobo wants to talk about his feelings in ***Crush & Lobo #3*** (by *Mariko Tamaki & Amancy Naheulpan).*

Jessica's dizzying descent into madness continues in ***DC Horror Presents: The Conjuring—The Lover #3*** (by *David Johnson-McGoldrick, Rex Ogle, Tim Seeley, Garry Brown, & Kelley Jones)* as she finds herself dealing with an act of violence she has no recollection of committing. Nearing emotional collapse, Jessica finds herself coming to terms with the terrifying reality that these ever-worsening events may not be the product of her deteriorating psyche, but of something else... something inhuman.

In a last-ditch effort to avenge his daughter's death, Mr Worth teams with the Penguin's criminal empire, the Party Crashers gang, and the Falcone crime family in ***Detective Comics #1041*** (by *Mariko Tamaki & Dan Mora)* to form the kind of villain team-up that would leave a Boy Wonder sweating in his booties.

Punchline prowls Gotham in ***Future State: Gotham #4*** (by *Dennis Culver & Nikola Cizmesija),* searching for the one thing she needs before leaving the city forever. The only person standing in her way is a revenge-fueled Harley Quinn. And just when things couldn't get any worse, the brand-new hero Hunter Panic comes for them both!

As Far Sector's Jo Mullein begins to investigate the suspects most likely responsible for the destruction of the Green Lantern Corps in ***Green Lantern #5*** (by *Geoffrey Thorne, Tom Raney, & Marco Santucci),* she winds up face to face with one of its greatest enemies—Sinestro. Was this the former Green Lantern's plan all along?

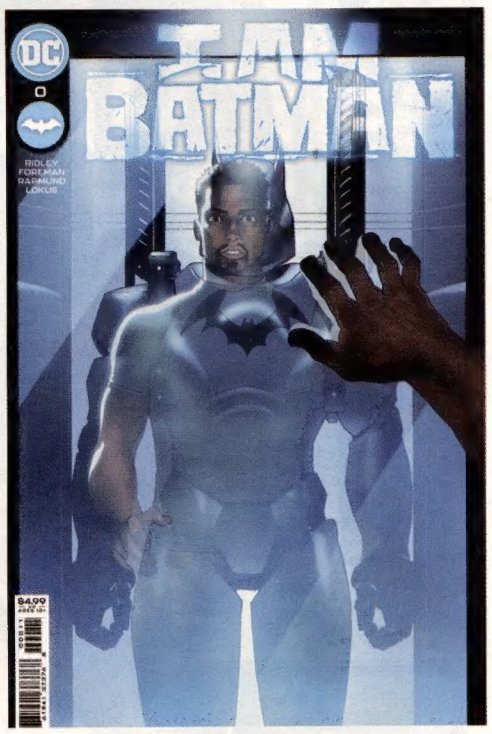
No sooner has the onetime Kid Flash retaken the mantle of the Fastest Man Alive than he must outrace the flames of one of his greatest foes in ***The Flash #773*** (by *Jeremy Adams & Will Conrad).*

Once an agoraphobic scared even to leave her room, Jessica Cruz overcame her fear to become a Green Lantern and face the darkest and deadliest threats in the universe. And now she's been offered a place in the Sinestro Corps in ***Green Lantern 2021 Annual #1*** (by *Ryan Cady & Sami Basri)*—but will she accept?

Curtis Metcalf was the brightest shining star of Alva Industries, a brilliant scientist mentored by Edwin Alva since childhood... until the failures of Alva technology at the "Big Bang" disaster threatened to destroy the company and Alva needed a scapegoat. Now Curtis is on the run from the Dakota police department—but he's going to take the fight back to Alva himself in ***Hardware: Season One #1*** (by *Brandon Thomas, Denys Cowan, & Bill Sienkiewicz).*

Catwoman and Harley form their own dynamic duo in ***Harley Quinn #6*** (by *Stephanie Phillips & Laura Braga).*

Harley's sidekick Kevin teams up with Solomon Grundy to visit Gotham's worst criminals in search of a missing Harley (who's been kidnapped by Keepsake) in ***Harley Quinn 2021 Annual #1*** (by *Stephanie Phillips & David LaFuente).* Plus, a major new Bat-villain!



Future State gave readers a preview of things to come with Jace Fox as the new Batman... but his debut in the core line arrives with a bang in ***I Am Batman #0*** (by *John Ridley & Travel Foreman)*! Picking up immediately from the events of ***The Next Batman: Second***

60 Years

DAN SLOTT & JOHN ROMITA JR.
MARK WAID & PAUL RENAUD AND JASON LOO

Fantastic Four #35

IT'S THE FANTASTIC FOUR VS. KANG IN THE ULTIMATE BATTLE FOR SURVIVAL ACROSS TIME AND SPACE!

MARVEL

AUGUST 2021

COVER BY MARK BROOKS

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Son, Jace thrusts himself into action when the Magistrate's crackdown on Alleytown begins, using armor he's found in the abandoned Hibernaculum.

Meet the mysterious Xiomara in ***Icon & Rocket: Season One #2*** (by *Reginald Hudlin, Doug Braithwaite, & Andrew Currie)*. She's an attorney with a unique set of skills... and if you're Raquel "Rocket" Ervin, she's whom you want in your corner when the United States government comes knocking on your door!

President Superman finds himself in the wrong world in ***Infinite Frontier #4*** (by *Joshua Williamson, Xermanico, Paul Pelletier, & Jesus Merino)*, and it isn't looking good. Bones and Chase attempt to stop superpowered heroes and villains from crossing Multiversal lines. At the same time, Injustice Incarnate begins to show them the worst the Multiverse has to offer, and only Flashpoint Batman is there to lend the heroes backup. Then Roy Harper takes center stage in ***Infinite Frontier #5,*** while Barry Allen sends out an SOS for the Omega Planet.

After barely surviving in the jungles of Belize, Joker flees to Europe in ***The Joker #6*** (by *James Tynion IV & Guillem March)*. Jim Gordon pursues the madman, but the seeds of doubt begin to sprout... if Joker didn't gas Arkham Asylum, who did? And what's the next move for Vengeance, daughter of Bane?

In ***The Joker Presents: A Puzzlebox #1*** (by *Matthew Rosenberg, Jesus Merino, & Joshua Hixon)*, the Gotham police discover a mysterious corpse, a magical box, and a murderers' row of the city's most dangerous villains sitting in a jail cell. Now all they need to figure out is what exactly happened. Fortunately, one suspect is willing to talk. Unfortunately, it's Joker...

The Hall of Justice has been invaded by the cosmic threat of the Synmar Utopica, and it will take the full force of the United Planets, led by Superman, to defeat it in ***Justice League #66*** (by *Brian Bendis, Ram V, Phil Hester, & Sumit Kumar)*. Meanwhile, the secrets of Checkmate are being whispered among the Justice League, and that spells trouble for Green Arrow and Black Canary. All this, and guest star Deathstroke!

Across the globe, people begin disappearing, replaced with different but similar individuals. So where is Superman, and who is this new monstrous Overman?! In order to get to the bottom of what's happening, the Justice League will need to first take down the new villain in ***Justice League Infinity #2*** (by *JM DeMatteis, James Tucker, & Ethen Beavers)*.

The Justice League disbanded when their last mission went terribly wrong, and Martian Manhunter paid the ultimate price. But in ***Justice League: Last Ride #4*** (by *Chip Zdarsky & Miguel Mendonca)*, the team learn that time is a circle, and their last mission on Apokolips holds more than just the key to protecting a war criminal and completing their mission: It tells the story of how we lost J'onn... and why Superman holds Batman responsible!

At the turn of the 20th century, Gotham City's most prominent businessmen were being murdered by a serial killer known only as the West End Wrath. Their cases were never solved. Over 100 years later, in ***Legends of the Dark Knight #4*** (by *Stephanie Phillips & Max Dunbar)*, Bruce Wayne comes into possession of a box of clues that will shine a light on who the West End Wrath was and what motivated the killings. But some people in Gotham want the secret of the murders to never come to light, including Oswald Cobblepot, aka the Penguin!

To win back her brother's soul from Hell, Mary Locke has done the unthinkable: She's seized control of the imprisoned Dream Lord's artifacts of power and crossed over into his place of power, the Dreaming! Now, in ***Locke & Key/Sandman Universe: Hell & Gone #2*** (by *Joe Hill & Gabriel Rodriguez)*, she finds herself in the middle of a war for the future of the kingdom, led by none other than the monstrous Corinthian...

Midnighter 2021 Annual #1 (by *Becky Cloonan, Michael W. Conrad, & Michael Avon Oeming)* presents a big finish to the adventure, starting all the way back in the conclusion of ***Future State: Superman—Worlds of War.*** Midnighter traveled into the future to help get himself out of a jam, only to swap places with his future self. Now, the Midnighter from the future finds himself trapped in a paradox, working his way back to his onetime present to swap places again. Don't worry if you're confused—so is he!

Shilo Norman is Mister Miracle no more! Left at his lowest point, Shilo's fame, status, and name are violently ripped away in ***Mister Miracle: The Source of Freedom #4*** (by *Brandon Easton & Fico Ossio)*. The legacy of the Miracle mantle is shrouded in dark secrets, and now Shilo wants answers.

Walter's "rules" for their getaway strongly suggested the residents not leave the property lines of the House in ***Nice House on the Lake #3*** (by *James Tynion IV & Alvaro Martinez Bueno)*... but how far can they go?

It's a fight for the soul of the city! Now that Dick Grayson has inherited more money than he could possibly need, he has an idea on how he can help the city with it—and it's time for him to announce it to the world! But with Blüdhaven so beyond saving, what idea does he have that could possible save it? Find out in ***Nightwing #83*** (by *Joshua Williamson & Gleb Melnikov)*.

Spanning the years between the hit TV show and today, ***Pennyworth #1*** (by *Scott Bryan Wilson & Juan Gedeon)* tells the continuing adventures of Alfred Pennyworth as an MI6 counterintelligence agent—this time in Cold War–era Soviet Russia.

Nightwing, Red Hood, Tim Drake, and Spoiler guest-star in ***Robin #5*** (by *Joshua Williamson & Gleb Melnikov)* as they track Damian down with a plan to bring the young hero back to Gotham. But what starts as a happy reunion quickly turns into a Robin rumble!

Rorschach and Laura prepare to carry out their ill-fated plan to kill a presidential candidate in ***Rorschach #11*** (by *Tom King & Jorge Fornes)*—but they first have to find a way into his political rally...

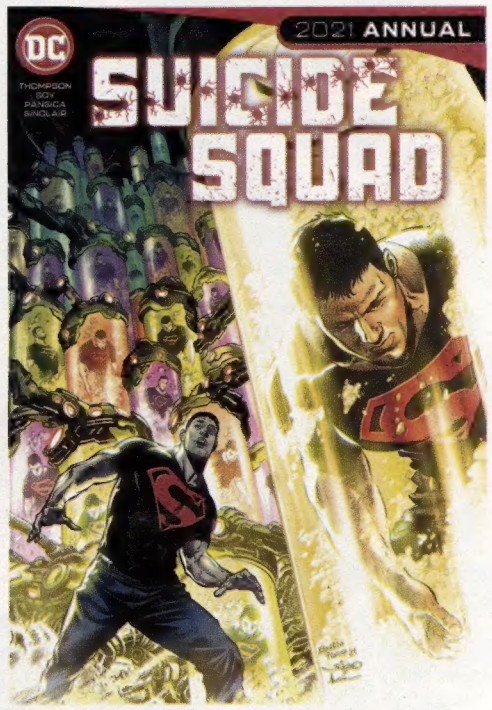
When Queen Bee hypnotizes the Amazons of Themyscira into aiding her plot to have women take over the world, Wonder Woman must rely on her strength and wits to take down Queen Bee, her "squad" of villains, and an army of Amazon drones in ***Sensational Wonder Woman #6*** (by *Sina Grace & Paul Pelletier)*.

Hell is full of temptations and distractions as Billy Batson searches for the missing Rock of Eternity, alongside his guide from Teen Titans Academy, the mystical and mysterious Dane, in ***Shazam! #2*** (by *Tim Sheridan & Clayton Henry)*. Even with the power of Shazam!, Billy finds himself outwitted and outmatched, until Dane reveals a secret that will change his relationship with Billy and the new Teen Titans Academy forever.

The government believes the superpowered teenaged "Bang Babies" of Dakota are out of control... and they're too dangerous to be allowed on the streets—in ***Static Season One #3*** (by *Vita Ayala, ChrisCross, & Nikolas Draper-Ivey)*.

Bloodsport's first mission with the Squad goes pear-shaped in ***Suicide Squad #6*** (by *Robbie Thompson, Dexter soy, & Eduardo Pansica*) as the Crime Syndicate captures Amanda Waller's agent on Earth-3. Meanwhile, Peacemaker gets a new assignment to track down and eliminate Levi Kamei—the new Swamp Thing!

After turning the tables on the Suicide Squad, Joker gained control of the device that could detonate the bomb implanted in each of the team members' heads. Now forced to do Joker's bidding, Red Hood, Harley, and the rest of Task Force X find themselves hunted by a newly formed Squad in ***Suicide Squad: Get Joker #2*** (by *Brian Azzarello, Alex Maleev, & Matt Hollingsworth)*.



Everyone questioned how the teen calling himself Conner Kent came to be recruited into the Suicide Squad by Amanda Waller. But as Superboy sneaks into the bowels of a top-secret Task Force X black site, what he finds changes all he thinks he knows about himself and his history. ***Suicide Squad 2021 Annual #1*** (by *Robbie Thompson & Dexter Soy)* alters everything for the only hero on the Squad and makes him question what to do next, now that he knows the truth behind his origin.

In ***Supergirl: Woman of Tomorrow #3*** (by *Tom King & Bilquis Evely)*, Supergirl's hunt to bring the killer Krem to justice takes her and the young alien in her care to a small planet where they discover that there are still some very small minds, even on the outer edges of the galaxy.

Clark Kent and Manchester Black continue to put Superman's new team together in ***Superman & The Authority #2*** (by *Grant Morrison & Mikel Janin)* as the pair hit different parts of the world looking for different types of heroes.

Streaky the Supercat returns in ***Superman Red & Blue #6,*** courtesy of writer/artist *Sophie Campbell*.

Fly into director *Richard Donner's* Superman once more in ***Superman '78 #1*** (by *Robert Venditti & Wilfredo Torres*). A bright, shining day in Metropolis is interrupted by a mysterious drone that crash-lands in the city and starts wreaking havoc. This looks like a job for Superman! But where did the metallic menace come from; what is its purpose, and who is Brainiac?

Jonathan Kent now dons his father's cape, but can he be Superman and still have a normal life? It's tough in this modern world. Danger is everywhere. The new Superman learns this the hard way in ***Superman: Son of Kal-El #2*** (by *Tom Taylor & John Timms)* as a deadly attack forces Jon to step from the shadows and into the spotlight—where his identity is exposed to the Truth, an activist news machine ready to upset everything.

What happens when an indomitable force meets an irritating object? That's what readers find out in ***Superman vs Lobo #1*** (by *Tim Seeley & Sarah Beattie*).

When an entire town in upstate New York turns on the students of Teen Titans Academy while the adult Titans are on a mission, Gorilla Greg, Chupacabra, and the other new students find themselves fighting for their lives against a chaotic mob in ***Teen Titans Academy #6*** (by *Tom Sheridan & Rafa Sandoval*).

With Prescot's bio-agent set off in the Kaziranga wetlands, the Green summons Levi back to the land of his making, where he must confront the Suicide Squad, in ***Swamp Thing #6*** (by *Ram V & Mike Perkins*).

Zatanna finds herself trapped in a dream world in ***Truth & Justice #7*** (by *Preeti Chhibber & Lalit Sharma*). How did she get there, and how can she possibly get out without her magical powers?

Yara Flor's childhood in Brazil has always been a mystery, spoken of in hushed tones by her aunt and uncle. What were they not telling her? The answers lie in the Amazon rain forest in ***Wonder Girl #4*** (by *Joëlle Jones & Adriana Melo*).

Wonder Woman learns the hard way that fairies are never to be trusted when her promised trip home takes a sharp left turn at Earth-11, headquarters of the Justice Guild, in ***Wonder Woman #777*** (by *Becky Cloonan, Emanuela Lupacchino,* and others).

DC collected editiions (advance solicited for September, October, and November release) include:

- ***Basketful of Heads TP,*** collecting the seven-issue series.
- ***Batman Arkham: Catwoman,*** collecting ***Batman #s 1 & 55, Catwoman (1989) #s 1–4, Superman's Girlfriend Lois Lane #s 70–71,*** and more.
- ***Batman Black & White HC,*** collecting the six-issue series.
- ***Batman in the Fifties TP,*** collecting ***Batman #s 59, 62–63, 81, 92, 105, 113–114, 121–122, & 128; Detective Comics #s 156, 168, 185, 187, 215–216, 233, 235–236, 241, 244, 252, 267, & 269;*** and ***World's Finest Comics #s 81 & 89.***
- ***Batman Volume 4: The Cowardly Lot TP,*** collecting ***Batman #s 106–109.***
- ***Batman: Arkham Asylum Deluxe Edition HC,*** a repackaging of the *Grant Morrison–Dave McKean* graphic novel.
- ***Batman: Curse of the White Knight TP,*** collecting ***Batman: Curse of the White Knight #s 1–8*** and ***Batman: White Knight Presents Von Freeze #1.***
- ***Batman: Detective Comics Vol 6—Road to Ruin TP,*** collecting ***Detective #s 1028–1033.***
- ***Batman: His Greatest Mysteries TP,*** collecting ***Batman #s 404 & 610, Detective Comics #s 822 & 824, Batman Annual #2, Batman Universe #1,*** and more.
- ***Batman: Li'l Gotham—Calendar Daze TP,*** collecting ***Batman: Li'l Gotham #s 1–6.***
- ***Batman: No Man's Land Omnibus Vol 1, HC,*** collecting the first half of the landmark event storyline.
- ***Batman: Noel TP,*** a softcover edition of *Lee Bermejo's* graphic novel.
- ***Batman: The Long Halloween Deluxe Edition HC,*** collecting the 13-issue series along with extras.
- ***Batwoman Omnibus HC,*** collecting ***Detective Comics #s 854–863, Batwoman #0 (New 52), Batwoman #s 0–24,*** and ***Batwoman Annual #1.***
- ***Birds of Prey: Fighters by Trade TP,*** collecting ***Birds of Prey #s 81–91.***
- ***The Books of Magic Omnibus Vol 2 HC,*** collecting ***The Books of Magic #s 33–75, The Books of Magic Annual #s 1–3, The Books of Faerie #s 1–3,*** stories from ***Vertigo: Winter's Edge #s 1–3, Hellblazer/The Books of Magic #s 1–2,*** and ***The Books of Faerie: Molly's Story #s 1–4.***
- ***Daphne Byrne TP,*** collecting the six-issue series.
- ***The Dollhouse Family TP,*** collecting the six-issue series.
- ***Justice League: Death Metal TP,*** collecting ***Justice League #s 53–57.***
- ***The Low, Low Woods TP,*** collecting the six-issue series.
- ***The Next Batman: Second Son HC,*** collecting the four-issue series.
- ***Plunge TP,*** collecting the six-issue series.
- ***Sensational Wonder Woman TP,*** collecting the six-issue series.
- ***Superman: The Man of Steel Vol 4 HC,*** collecting ***Superman: The Wedding Album,*** along with other relationship highlights. Also includes a brand-new foreword by *John Ney Rieber* and a brand-new introduction by *Peter Gross.*
- ***Wonder Woman: Agent of Peace Vol 1—Global Guardian TP,*** collecting chapters 1–11 of the digital series.
- ***Wonder Woman: Blood and Guts Deluxe Edition HC,*** collecting ***Wonder Woman (New 52) #s 1–12.***
- ***Wonder Woman: Who Is Wonder Woman? Deluxe Edition HC,*** collecting ***Wonder Woman #s 1–4*** and ***Wonder Woman Annual #1.***

Coming Comics—Dark Horse in August

Cats: Purrfect Strangers (by *Frederick Bremaud & Paola Antista*) presents light-hearted short comic stories following the lives of three young women and their cats.

"Creeping" is a dangerous online trend that dares participants to spend the night at a frightening location—from crumbling cemeteries to derelict morgues. As more people join in, the competition increases—who can outdo the latest scary destination? One group of thrillseekers determine to find the most terrifying place in the world—an abandoned medieval fortress turned insane asylum fills the bill, but they soon realize they are in for more than they bargained for in ***Creeping HC*** (by *Zack Keller & Doug Wheatley*).

When the door to a living dungeon surfaces in the tiny hamlet of Oddgoat in ***Delver TP*** (by *MK Reed, Spike, & C. Trotman*), village girl Temerity Aster has two choices: abandon the only home she's ever known to carpetbaggers and sellswords, or carve out a place for herself and her family in the new and dangerous world of delving.

The oldest son of a world-renowned scientist, Wale Williams—aka tech-savvy superhero EXO—tries to save Lagoon City from a deadly group of emerging extremists in ***EXO: Legend of Wale Williams Volume 1 TP*** (by *Roye Okupe & Sunkanmi Akinboye*). But before this "pending" superhero can do any good for his city, there is one person he must save first—himself! This Afrofuturist superhero story about redemption is set in the bustling metropolis of Lagos, Nigeria—with a creative team that's also from Lagos!

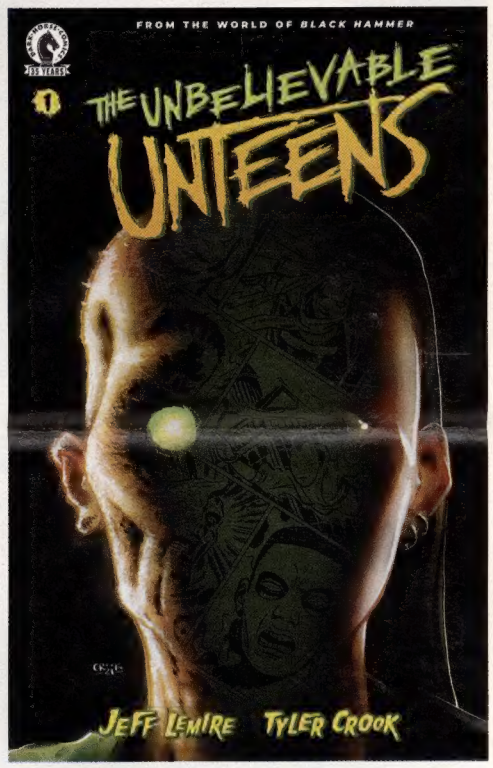
After being awakened from his long sleep in a shrine in Eastern Europe, Josef the Golem aids in the fight against the witches that once again terrorize humanity in ***Golem Walks Among Us #1*** (by *Mike Mignola, Christopher Golden, & Peter Bergting*).

During the Battle of the Bulge, a squadron of US soldiers stumble into an abandoned manor as they seek shelter from a blizzard... but this manor is more dangerous than any snowstorm, as the soldiers discover in ***House TP*** (by *Phillip Sevy & Drew Zucker*).

Meet Max and Alex, reformed intergalactic assassins for hire, in ***Killer Queens #1*** (by *David M. Booher & Claudia Balboni*). On the run. Also super gay. Their former boss—a fluffy monkey with a jetpack—is hot on their trail to take back his stolen ship. They gotta eat, so they take a mission from Alex's old flame: your standard no-kill, casualty-free kidnapping recovery from a nearby moon. Only complication? Half the moon is ruled by a fascist dictator hostile to foreigners. They're the Killer Queens, so what could possibly go wrong?

A down-on-his-luck schlub is possessed by a malevolent demon. Just when he thinks things can't get worse, the exorcism goes wrong... and he finds that somehow he's retained all of the entity's supernatural gifts in ***Lucky Devil #1*** (by *Cullen Bunn & Fran Galan*). After a path of revenge on all the people who have wronged him, he begins to gather worshippers and form a cult.

At the height of the roaring '20s, the daughter of a mafia boss is determined to rise to prominence in her family's business in ***Mafiosa TP*** (by *Sunshine Barbito, Alessia Alfano, & Debora Carita*).



After signing at a comic book convention, ***Unbelievable Unteens*** artist Jane Ito finds herself visited by one of the characters from her own creation in ***Unbelievable Unteens: World of Black Hammer #1*** (by *Jeff Lemire & Tyler Crook*)—but was it her own creation? Were the Unteens an actual school of teenaged misfit superheroes who battled supervillains under the lead of the mysterious Dr Miles Moniker? And if so, who wiped their memories and why?

Dark Horse collected editions include:

- ***EC Archives: Frontline Combat Volume 3 HC,*** collecting ***Frontline Combat #s 12–15.***
- ***Enigma Definitive Edition HC,*** collecting the *Peter Milligan–Duncan Fegredo* series along with almost 50 pages of extras.
- ***Evil Dead 40th Anniversary Edition HC,*** collecting the series by *Mark Verheiden & John Bolton.*
- ***Orphan & Five Beasts TP,*** collecting the four-issue series.
- ***She Could Fly Volume 3 TP: Fight or Flight,*** collecting the five-issue series.
- ***True Lives of the Fabulous Killjoys: California Deluxe HC,*** collecting the five-issue series and more.

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